



Town of Amherst

Financial Trend Monitoring Report

October 2010

Financial Indicator Analysis

FY 2001 - FY 2010

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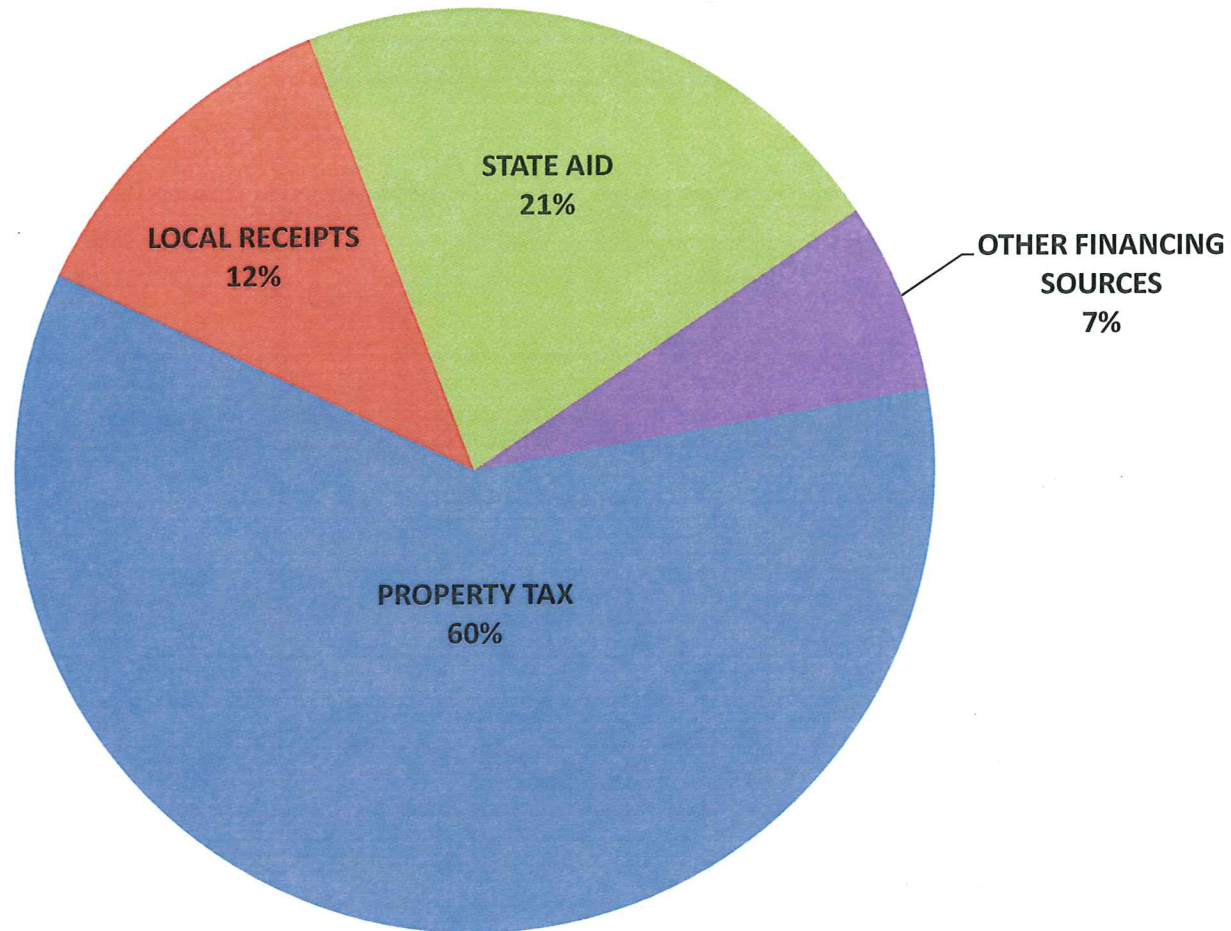
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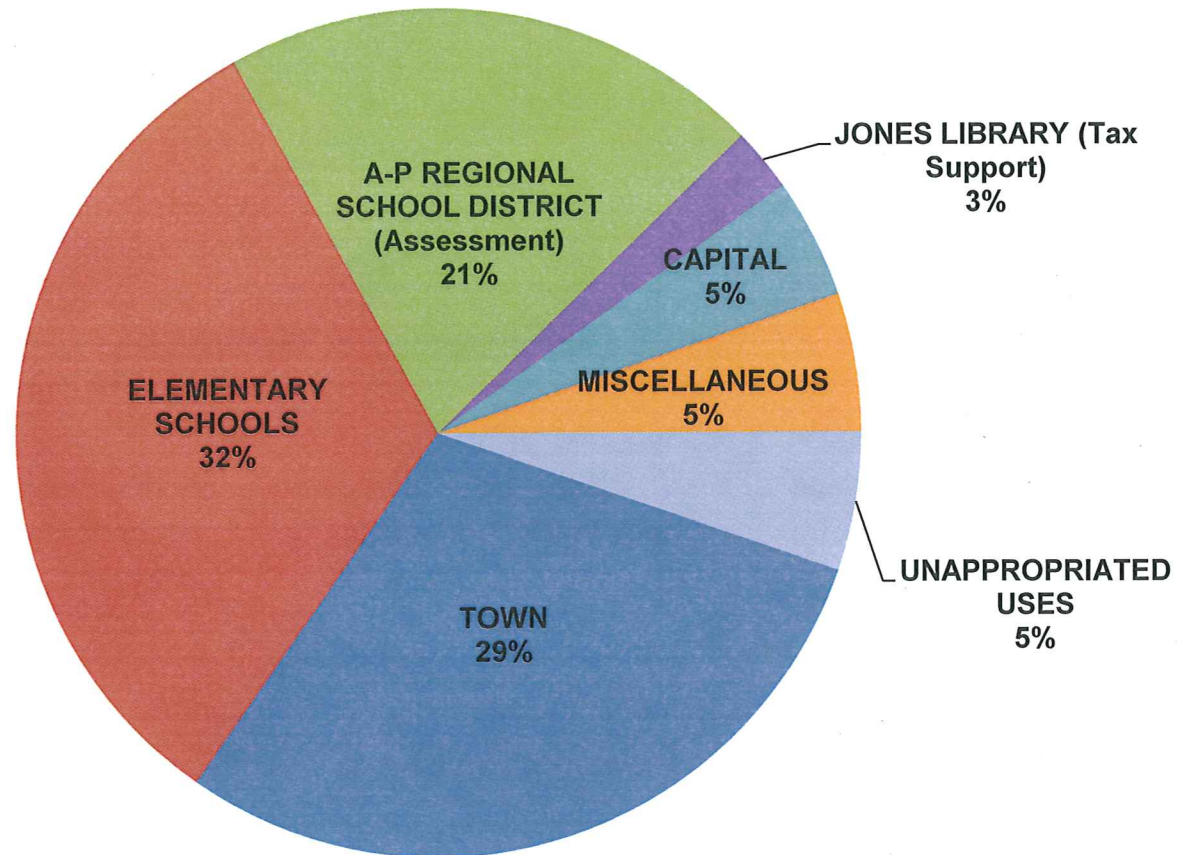
Note

This report was initially prepared in 2007 at the request of the Amherst Finance Director by three graduate students at the Center for Public Policy & Administration at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Town staff have refined and expanded the template since then. The International City Management Association's (ICMA) Financial Trend Monitoring System served as the template for this analysis.

**What Are Our Baseline Sources of Revenue?
FY 11**

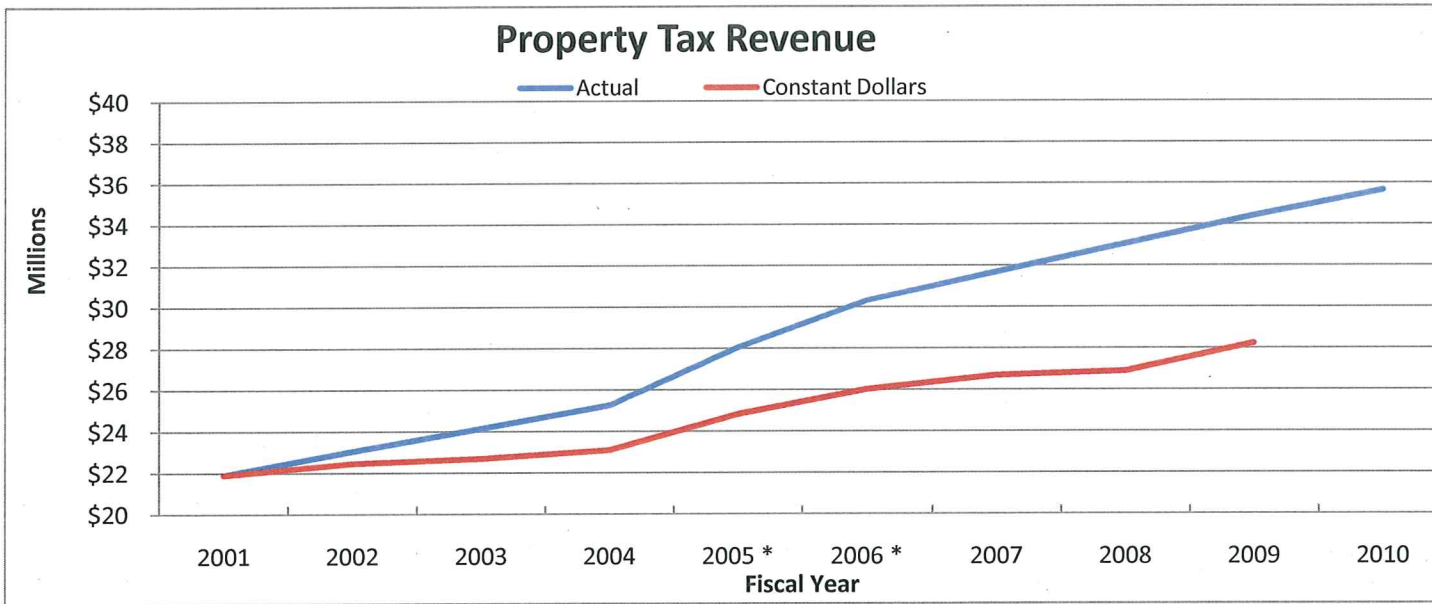


What Are Our Current Expenditures? FY 11



3 - Property Tax Revenue

A decline in property tax revenues (measured in constant dollars) is considered a warning indicator.



Amherst Trend	
Favorable	
Marginal	X
Unfavorable	
Uncertain	X

The Property Tax is the Town's primary revenue source for both operating and capital spending. Annual increases are limited by Proposition 2 1/2. The substantial increase in property tax revenue in FY 05 and FY 06 is in part due to the successful override in March 2004. The analysis shows that the only significant increases in constant dollars from year to year occurred when an override was passed by the community.

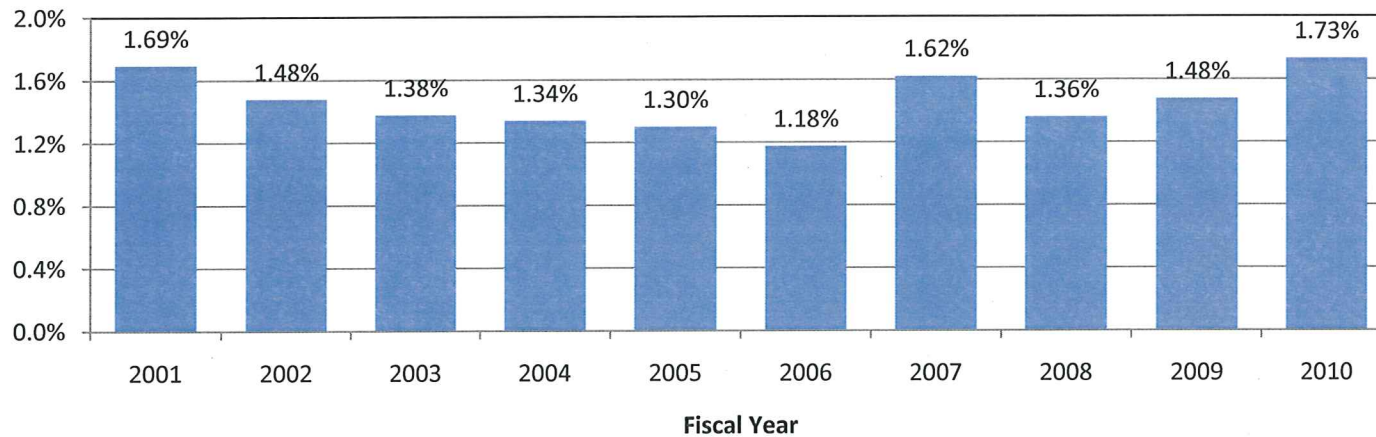
Formula	Property Tax Revenues (Constant Dollars)									
Fiscal Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 *	2006 *	2007	2008	2009	2010
Residential Property Tax Levy	\$ 19,438,550	\$ 20,492,728	\$ 21,719,548	\$ 22,750,342	\$ 25,641,716	\$ 27,597,486	\$ 28,983,904	\$ 30,228,150	\$ 31,654,521	\$ 32,517,975
Commercial Property Tax Levy	\$ 2,384,441	\$ 2,383,060	\$ 2,278,072	\$ 2,287,047	\$ 2,270,532	\$ 2,225,570	\$ 2,311,801	\$ 2,287,655	\$ 2,335,621	\$ 2,615,297
Industrial Property Tax Levy	\$ 58,872	\$ 59,972	\$ 79,187	\$ 70,117	\$ 74,666	\$ 73,806	\$ 75,446	\$ 77,082	\$ 72,198	\$ 77,355
Personal Property Tax Levy	\$ 753,530	\$ 823,955	\$ 708,209	\$ 747,955	\$ 615,689	\$ 639,122	\$ 708,900	\$ 802,271	\$ 809,087	\$ 848,380
Property Tax Total	\$ 22,635,393	\$ 23,759,715	\$ 24,785,016	\$ 25,855,461	\$ 28,602,603	\$ 30,535,984	\$ 32,080,051	\$ 33,395,158	\$ 34,871,427	\$ 36,059,007
Less - Excluded Debt	\$ 743,858	\$ 719,573	\$ 637,518	\$ 598,717	\$ 555,553	\$ 220,641	\$ 382,217	\$ 340,425	\$ 441,321	\$ 400,837
Net Property Tax Revenue	\$ 21,891,535	\$ 23,040,142	\$ 24,147,498	\$ 25,256,744	\$ 28,047,050	\$ 30,315,343	\$ 31,697,834	\$ 33,054,733	\$ 34,430,106	\$ 35,658,170
CPI - U, Base Period = 1982-1984	191.5	196.5	203.9	209.5	216.4	223.1	227.4	235.4	233.5	
CPI - U, Adjustment for constant dollars (2000 dollars)	100%	97%	94%	91%	88%	86%	84%	81%	82%	
Property Tax Revenue (constant dollars)	\$ 21,891,535	\$ 22,453,879	\$ 22,678,989	\$ 23,086,713	\$ 24,819,825	\$ 26,021,462	\$ 26,693,646	\$ 26,890,320	\$ 28,237,110	\$ -
Percent Change - Property Tax Revenue (constant dollars)		2.6%	1.0%	1.8%	7.5%	4.8%	2.6%	0.7%	5.0%	

* A \$2,000,000 override was approved by voters in March 2004 that was added to the tax levy over a 2-year period in FY 05 and FY 06. The \$1,680,000 override approved in March 2010 increases property tax bills beginning in FY 11 (July 2010 - June 2011).

4 - Uncollected Property Taxes

Uncollected property taxes (as a percent of the property tax levy) of 5-8 percent is considered a warning indicator by the Bond rating organizations.

Uncollected Taxes as a Percentage of Net Property Tax Levy



Amherst Trend

Favorable	X
Marginal	
Unfavorable	
Uncertain	

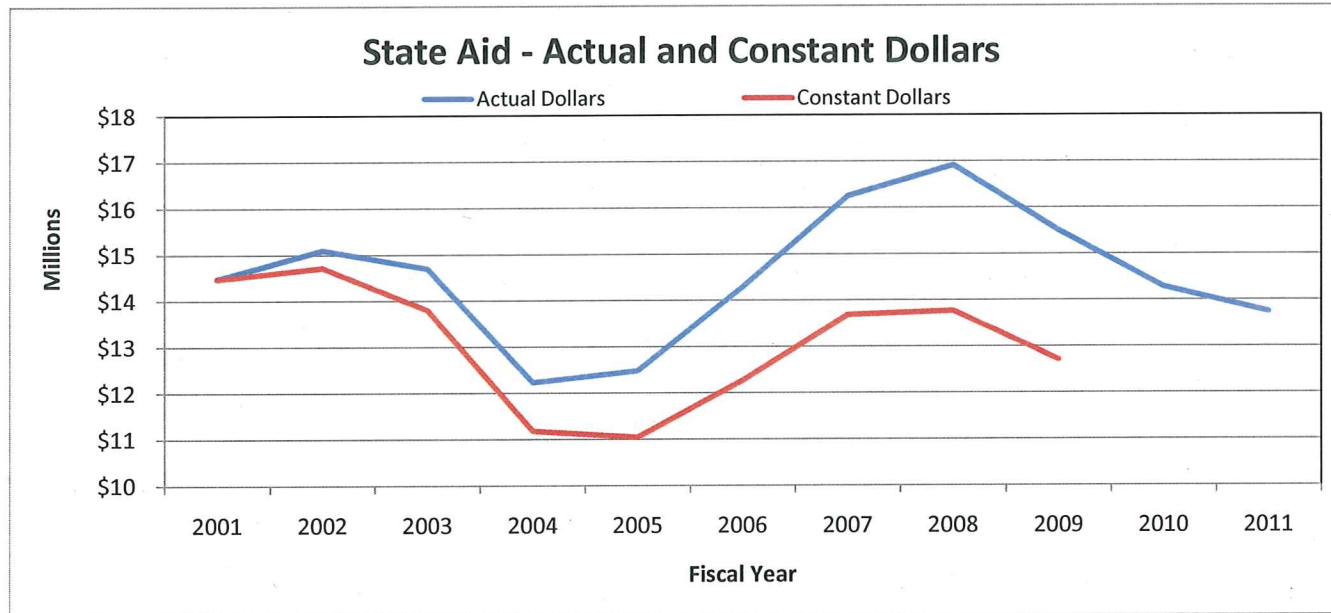
An increase in uncollected property taxes may indicate an inability by property owners to pay their taxes due to economic conditions. Additionally, as uncollected property taxes rise, liquidity decreases, resulting in less cash on hand for the Town to invest. Bond rating organizations generally consider uncollected taxes in excess of 5% as a warning trend. Amherst has maintained a strong position on this indicator, regardless of economic conditions.

Formula	Uncollected Taxes as a Percentage of Net Property Tax Levy									
Fiscal Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Residential Property Tax Levy	\$ 19,438,550	\$ 20,492,728	\$ 21,719,548	\$ 22,750,342	\$ 25,641,716	\$ 27,597,486	\$ 28,983,904	\$ 30,228,150	\$ 31,654,521	\$ 32,517,975
Commercial Property Tax Levy	\$ 2,384,441	\$ 2,383,060	\$ 2,278,072	\$ 2,287,047	\$ 2,270,532	\$ 2,225,570	\$ 2,311,801	\$ 2,287,655	\$ 2,335,621	\$ 2,615,297
Industrial Property Tax Levy	\$ 58,872	\$ 59,972	\$ 79,187	\$ 70,117	\$ 74,666	\$ 73,806	\$ 75,446	\$ 77,082	\$ 72,198	\$ 77,355
Personal Property Tax Levy	\$ 753,530	\$ 823,955	\$ 708,209	\$ 747,955	\$ 615,689	\$ 639,122	\$ 708,900	\$ 802,271	\$ 809,087	\$ 848,380
Property Tax Subtotal	\$ 22,635,393	\$ 23,759,715	\$ 24,785,016	\$ 25,855,461	\$ 28,602,603	\$ 30,535,984	\$ 32,080,051	\$ 33,395,158	\$ 34,871,427	\$ 36,059,007
Reserved for Abatements & Exemptions	\$ 338,277	\$ 246,172	\$ 295,738	\$ 243,584	\$ 302,116	\$ 297,202	\$ 312,089	\$ 342,873	\$ 342,028	\$ 332,415
Net Property Tax Levy	\$ 22,297,116	\$ 23,513,543	\$ 24,489,278	\$ 25,611,877	\$ 28,300,487	\$ 30,238,782	\$ 31,767,962	\$ 33,052,285	\$ 34,529,399	\$ 35,726,592
Uncollected Taxes as of June 30	\$ 377,892	\$ 347,773	\$ 337,265	\$ 343,543	\$ 367,899	\$ 355,732	\$ 514,895	\$ 449,606	\$ 509,962	\$ 618,875
Uncollected Taxes as a Percentage of Net Property Tax Levy	1.69%	1.48%	1.38%	1.34%	1.30%	1.18%	1.62%	1.36%	1.48%	1.73%

Source: Collector

5 - State Aid - Actual and Constant Dollars

Reductions in State Aid are considered a warning indicator, particularly if the Town does not have adequate reserves or other revenues to offset cuts.



Amherst Trend	
Favorable	
Marginal	
Unfavorable	X
Uncertain	

Reliance on state aid for funding has both an upside and a downside. While increases in state aid may permit additional services, increased state aid as a percentage of operating revenue may be difficult to manage when there is a reduction in this funding.

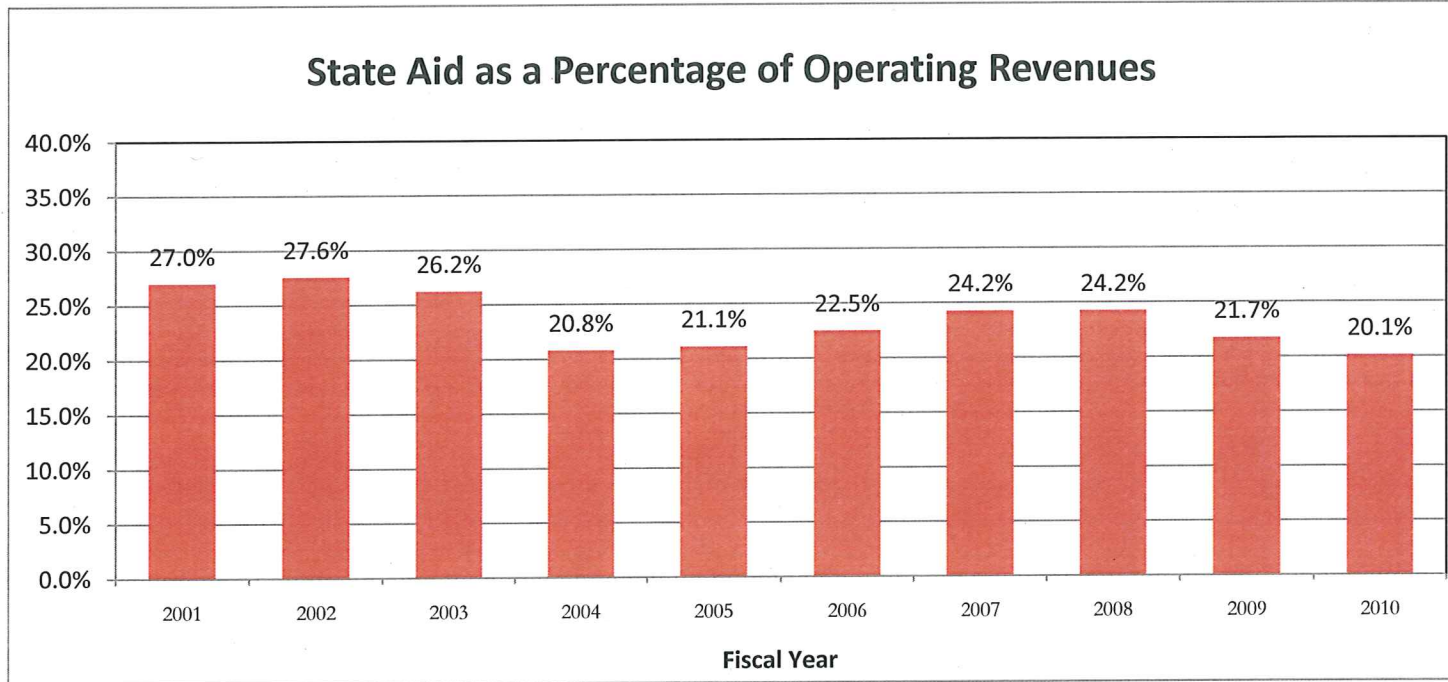
State Aid to the Town is lower in FY 11 than FY 01 in both actual and inflation adjusted dollars, with cuts of over \$3.1 million in the last three years.

Formula	State Aid / Operating Revenues										
Fiscal Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
State Aid (actual)	\$ 14,474,001	\$ 15,096,305	\$ 14,690,451	\$ 12,229,857	\$ 12,473,453	\$ 14,288,429	\$ 16,245,680	\$ 16,913,170	\$ 15,492,500	\$ 14,278,972	\$ 13,743,259
CPI - U, Base Period = 1982-1984	191.5	196.5	203.9	209.5	216.4	223.1	227.4	235.4	233.5	0	0
CPI - U, Adjustment for constant dollars (2000 dollars)	100%	97%	94%	91%	88%	86%	84%	81%	82%	0%	0%
Adjusted State Aid (constant dollars)	\$ 14,474,001	\$ 14,712,175	\$ 13,797,064	\$ 11,179,082	\$ 11,038,199	\$ 12,264,608	\$ 13,680,949	\$ 13,759,015	\$ 12,705,840	\$ -	\$ -

Source: Massachusetts Department of Revenue "Cherry Sheets". FY 09 state aid reflects mid-year "9C Cuts" of \$978,298 to Lottery/Addl Asst and \$659,034 to Chapter 70 school aid.

6 - State Aid as a Percentage of Operating Revenues

Reductions in State Aid as a percentage of operating revenues is considered a warning indicator, particularly if the Town does not have adequate reserves.



Amherst Trend	
Favorable	
Marginal	
Unfavorable	X
Uncertain	

State Aid as a percentage of operating revenue dropped significantly in FY 04 and again in FY 09 (mid-year) and FY 10.

State Aid is lower in FY 10 than FY 01 in both actual and inflation adjusted dollars. State aid as a share of Town revenues is smaller than at any time since the enactment of Proposition 2 1/2 in 1980.

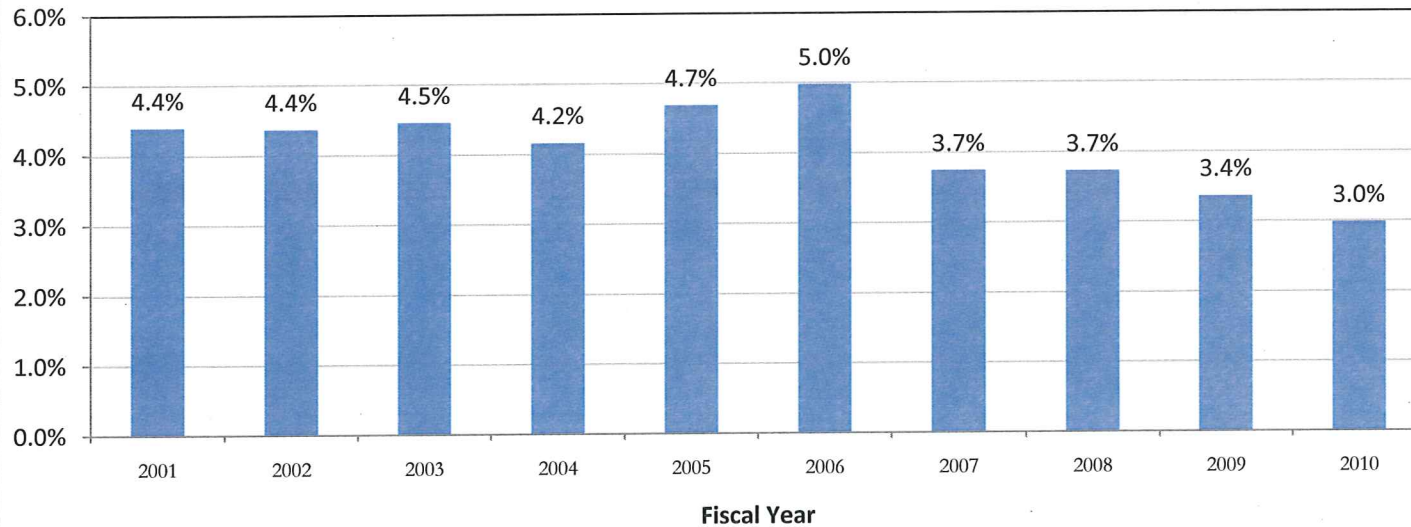
Formula	State Aid / Operating Revenues									
Fiscal Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Gross Operating Revenue	\$ 54,350,905	\$ 55,508,140	\$ 56,672,545	\$ 59,485,598	\$ 59,718,855	\$ 63,824,133	\$ 67,403,878	\$ 70,166,213	\$ 71,785,406	\$ 71,421,931
Less - Excluded Debt	\$ 743,858	\$ 719,573	\$ 637,518	\$ 598,717	\$ 555,553	\$ 220,641	\$ 382,217	\$ 340,425	\$ 441,321	\$ 400,837
Net Operating Revenue	\$ 53,607,047	\$ 54,788,567	\$ 56,035,027	\$ 58,886,881	\$ 59,163,302	\$ 63,603,492	\$ 67,021,661	\$ 69,825,788	\$ 71,344,085	\$ 71,021,094
State Aid	\$ 14,474,001	\$ 15,096,305	\$ 14,690,451	\$ 12,229,857	\$ 12,473,453	\$ 14,288,429	\$ 16,245,680	\$ 16,913,170	\$ 15,492,500	\$ 14,278,972
State Aid as a % of Operating Revenue	27.0%	27.6%	26.2%	20.8%	21.1%	22.5%	24.2%	24.2%	21.7%	20.1%

Source: Massachusetts Department of Revenue "Cherry Sheets".

7 - Revenues Related to Economic Growth

Decreasing revenues related to economic growth as a percentage of net operating revenues may be considered a warning indicator

Economic Growth Revenues as a Percentage of Operating Revenues



Amherst Trend

Favorable	
Marginal	
Unfavorable	X
Uncertain	

A balance between economic growth and other (non-growth) revenues mitigates the effect of macroeconomic changes--during a recession a higher percentage of revenue from non-growth sources is preferred.

The severe economic downturn and slow pace of recovery have had a significant negative effect on building permit fees (a precursor of future new growth), property tax from new growth, and motor vehicle excise taxes.

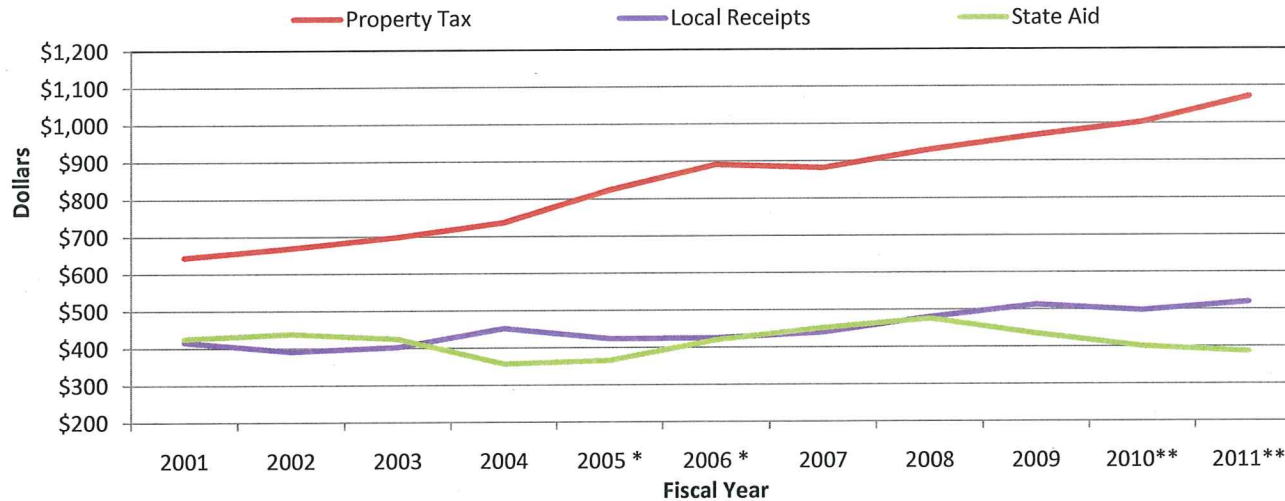
Formula	Economic Growth Revenues / Operating Revenues									
Fiscal Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Net Operating Revenues	\$53,607,047	\$54,788,567	\$56,035,027	\$58,886,881	\$59,163,302	\$63,603,492	\$67,403,878	\$70,166,213	\$73,422,737	\$71,021,094
Building Related Fees & Permits*	\$477,015	\$451,075	\$514,722	\$423,918	\$565,870	\$686,811	\$446,504	\$517,270	\$485,934	\$478,686
Motor Vehicle Excise	\$1,381,646	\$1,430,071	\$1,454,684	\$1,505,390	\$1,474,547	\$1,516,654	\$1,438,646	\$1,537,625	\$1,435,003	\$1,355,180
Tax Levy from New Construction	\$498,191	\$512,715	\$527,857	\$519,989	\$732,617	\$962,674	\$636,907	\$560,794	\$545,778	\$284,781
Total Economic Growth Revenues	\$2,356,852	\$2,393,861	\$2,497,263	\$2,449,297	\$2,773,034	\$3,166,139	\$2,522,057	\$2,615,689	\$2,466,716	\$2,118,647
Economic Growth Revenues as a % of Operating Revenues	4.4%	4.4%	4.5%	4.2%	4.7%	5.0%	3.7%	3.7%	3.4%	3.0%

*Building Related Fees & Permits includes the following permits: Street Opening, Building, Plumbing, Gas & Electrical

Sources: Amherst Finance Department, Massachusetts Department of Revenue

8 - Revenue Per Capita - Actual

Revenue Per Capita - Actual



Amherst Trend	
Favorable	
Marginal	X
Unfavorable	
Uncertain	X

Revenues from the property tax have increased by the allowable limits of Proposition 2 1/2 and were further increased in 2005 and 2010 via a voter-approved referendum. Local receipts have also increased due to increased reliance on user fees to fund certain Town services such as LSSE. State aid has fluctuated and now is below FY 01 levels even before adjusting for inflation.

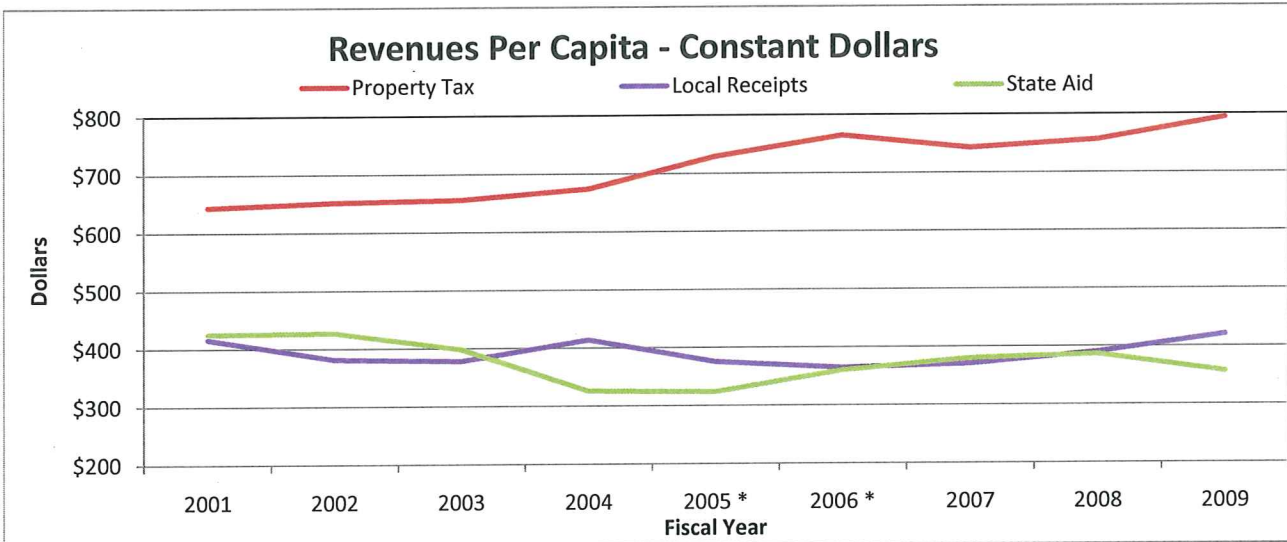
Formula	Revenues										
Fiscal Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 *	2006 *	2007	2008	2009	2010**	2011**
Residential Property Tax Levy	\$ 19,438,550	\$ 20,492,728	\$ 21,719,548	\$ 22,750,342	\$ 25,641,716	\$ 27,597,486	\$ 28,983,904	\$ 30,228,150	\$ 31,654,521	\$ 32,517,975	\$ -
Commercial Property Tax Levy	\$ 2,384,441	\$ 2,383,060	\$ 2,278,072	\$ 2,287,047	\$ 2,270,532	\$ 2,225,570	\$ 2,311,801	\$ 2,287,655	\$ 2,335,621	\$ 2,615,297	\$ -
Industrial Property Tax Levy	\$ 58,872	\$ 59,972	\$ 79,187	\$ 70,117	\$ 74,666	\$ 73,806	\$ 75,446	\$ 77,082	\$ 72,198	\$ 77,355	\$ -
Personal Property Tax Levy	\$ 753,530	\$ 823,955	\$ 708,209	\$ 747,955	\$ 615,689	\$ 639,122	\$ 708,900	\$ 802,271	\$ 809,087	\$ 848,380	\$ -
Property Tax Total	\$ 22,635,393	\$ 23,759,715	\$ 24,785,016	\$ 25,855,461	\$ 28,602,603	\$ 30,535,984	\$ 32,080,051	\$ 33,395,158	\$ 34,871,427	\$ 36,059,006	\$ 38,435,530
Less - Excluded Debt	\$ 743,858	\$ 719,573	\$ 637,518	\$ 598,717	\$ 555,553	\$ 220,641	\$ 382,217	\$ 340,425	\$ 441,321	\$ 400,837	\$ 352,466
Net Property Tax Revenue	\$ 21,891,535	\$ 23,040,142	\$ 24,147,498	\$ 25,256,744	\$ 28,047,050	\$ 30,315,343	\$ 31,697,834	\$ 33,054,733	\$ 34,430,106	\$ 35,658,169	\$ 38,083,064
Local Receipts	\$ 14,161,556	\$ 13,482,449	\$ 13,935,862	\$ 15,520,077	\$ 14,446,681	\$ 14,467,017	\$ 15,831,428	\$ 17,079,401	\$ 18,248,446	\$ 17,698,547	\$ 18,479,134
State Aid	\$ 14,474,001	\$ 15,096,305	\$ 14,690,451	\$ 12,229,857	\$ 12,473,453	\$ 14,288,429	\$ 16,245,680	\$ 16,913,170	\$ 15,492,500	\$ 14,278,972	\$ 13,743,259
Population	33,992	34,417	34,567	34,255	34,047	34,049	35,962	35,565	35,565	35,565	35,565
Property Tax per Capita	\$644.02	\$669.44	\$698.57	\$737.32	\$823.77	\$890.34	\$881.43	\$929.42	\$968.09	\$1,002.62	\$1,070.80
Local Receipts per Capita	\$416.61	\$391.74	\$403.16	\$453.07	\$424.32	\$424.89	\$440.23	\$480.23	\$513.10	\$497.64	\$519.59
State Aid per Capita	\$425.81	\$438.63	\$424.98	\$357.02	\$366.36	\$419.64	\$451.75	\$475.56	\$435.61	\$401.49	\$386.43

* A \$2,000,000 override was approved by voters in March 2004 that was added to the tax levy over a 2-year period in FY 05 and FY 06.

The \$1,680,000 override approved in March 2010 increased property tax bills beginning in FY 11 (July 2010 - June 2011).

Source: Massachusetts Department of Revenue

9 - Revenues Per Capita - Constant Dollars



Amherst Trend	
Favorable	
Marginal	X
Unfavorable	
Uncertain	X

Property tax revenues have increased at about the rate of inflation except in years (2005) when an override was passed by voters. State aid and local receipts have not kept pace with inflation.

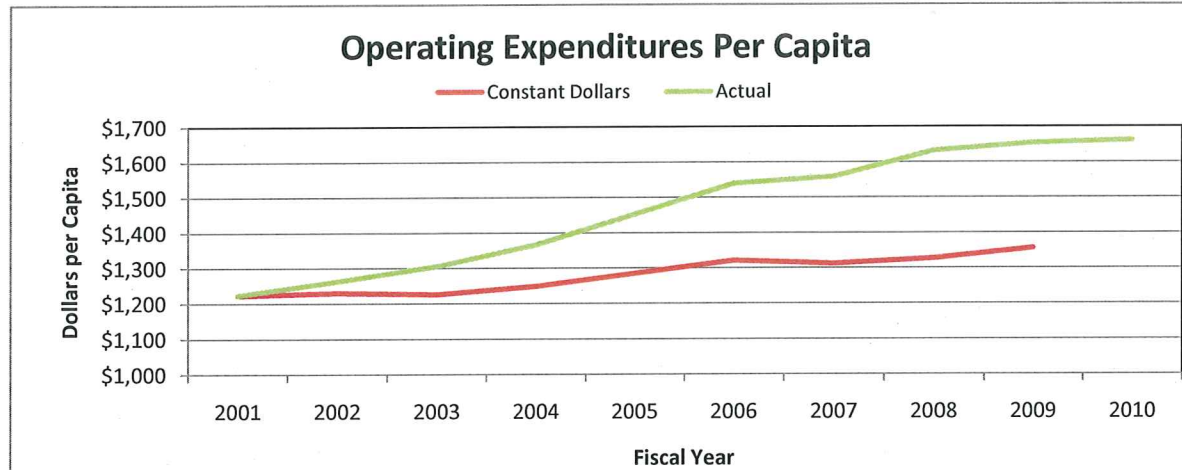
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Fiscal Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 *	2006 *	2007	2008	2009	2010
Residential Property Tax Levy	\$ 19,438,550	\$ 20,492,728	\$ 21,719,548	\$ 22,750,342	\$ 25,641,716	\$ 27,597,486	\$ 28,983,904	\$ 30,228,150	\$ 31,654,521	\$ 32,517,975
Commercial Property Tax Levy	\$ 2,384,441	\$ 2,383,060	\$ 2,278,072	\$ 2,287,047	\$ 2,270,532	\$ 2,225,570	\$ 2,311,801	\$ 2,287,655	\$ 2,335,621	\$ 2,615,297
Industrial Property Tax Levy	\$ 58,872	\$ 59,972	\$ 79,187	\$ 70,117	\$ 74,666	\$ 73,806	\$ 75,446	\$ 77,082	\$ 72,198	\$ 77,355
Personal Property Tax Levy	\$ 753,530	\$ 823,955	\$ 708,209	\$ 747,955	\$ 615,689	\$ 639,122	\$ 708,900	\$ 802,271	\$ 809,087	\$ 848,380
Property Tax Total	\$ 22,635,393	\$ 23,759,715	\$ 24,785,016	\$ 25,855,461	\$ 28,602,603	\$ 30,535,984	\$ 32,080,051	\$ 33,395,158	\$ 34,871,427	\$ 36,059,006
Less - Excluded Debt	\$ 743,858	\$ 719,573	\$ 637,518	\$ 598,717	\$ 555,553	\$ 220,641	\$ 382,217	\$ 340,425	\$ 441,321	\$ 400,837
Net Property Tax Revenue	\$ 21,891,535	\$ 23,040,142	\$ 24,147,498	\$ 25,256,744	\$ 28,047,050	\$ 30,315,343	\$ 31,697,834	\$ 33,054,733	\$ 34,430,106	\$ 35,658,169
Local Receipts	\$ 14,161,556	\$ 13,482,449	\$ 13,935,862	\$ 15,520,077	\$ 14,446,681	\$ 14,467,017	\$ 15,831,428	\$ 17,079,401	\$ 18,248,446	\$ 17,698,547
State Aid	\$ 14,474,001	\$ 15,096,305	\$ 14,690,451	\$ 12,229,857	\$ 12,473,453	\$ 14,288,429	\$ 16,245,680	\$ 16,913,170	\$ 15,492,500	\$ 14,278,972
CPI - U, Base Period = 1982-1984	191.5	196.5	203.9	209.5	216.4	223.1	227.4	235.4	233.5	0
CPI - U, Adjustment for constant dollars (2000 dollars)	100%	97%	94%	91%	88%	86%	84%	81%	82%	0%
Adjusted Property Taxes	\$ 21,891,535	\$ 22,453,879	\$ 22,678,989	\$ 23,086,713	\$ 24,819,825	\$ 26,021,462	\$ 26,693,646	\$ 26,890,320	\$ 28,237,110	\$ -
Adjusted Local Receipts	\$ 14,161,556	\$ 13,139,384	\$ 13,088,365	\$ 14,186,610	\$ 12,784,378	\$ 12,417,901	\$ 13,332,095	\$ 13,894,245	\$ 14,966,070	\$ -
Adjusted State Aid	\$ 14,474,001	\$ 14,712,175	\$ 13,797,064	\$ 11,179,082	\$ 11,038,199	\$ 12,264,608	\$ 13,680,949	\$ 13,759,015	\$ 12,705,840	\$ -
Population	33,992	34,417	34,567	34,255	34,047	34,049	35,962	35,565	35,565	35,565
Property Tax per Capita	\$644.02	\$652.41	\$656.09	\$673.97	\$728.99	\$764.24	\$742.27	\$756.09	\$793.96	\$0.00
Local Receipts per Capita	\$416.61	\$381.77	\$378.64	\$414.15	\$375.49	\$364.71	\$370.73	\$390.67	\$420.81	\$0.00
State Aid per Capita	\$425.81	\$427.47	\$399.14	\$326.35	\$324.20	\$360.20	\$380.43	\$386.87	\$357.26	\$0.00

* A \$2,000,000 override was approved by voters in March 2004 that was added to the tax levy over a 2-year period in FY 05 and FY 06.

Source: Massachusetts Department of Revenue

10 - Operating Expenditures Per Capita

Increasing net operating expenditures per capita (in constant dollars) may be considered a warning indicator.



Amherst Trend	
Favorable	
Marginal	X
Unfavorable	
Uncertain	

Increasing operating expenditures per capita can indicate that the cost of providing services is outpacing the Town's ability to pay.

Since 2001, Amherst's expenditures per capita have only increased slightly when adjusted for inflation (constant dollars).

Formula	Net Operating Expenditures & Transfers (Constant Dollars) / Population									
Fiscal Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
General Government *	\$3,741,827	\$2,924,253	\$3,107,889	\$3,046,937	\$3,008,441	\$3,199,950	\$3,353,542	\$3,284,271	\$3,505,638	\$3,253,561
Police, Fire & Other Public Safety*	\$6,675,831	\$6,772,589	\$7,105,734	\$7,398,842	\$7,688,560	\$7,945,350	\$8,466,139	\$8,417,276	\$8,852,050	\$8,515,854
Education	\$22,194,132	\$23,419,423	\$24,708,734	\$25,994,585	\$27,465,769	\$29,361,273	\$31,351,681	\$32,439,294	\$32,561,005	\$33,372,717
Public Works	\$1,509,914	\$1,411,953	\$1,569,540	\$1,492,750	\$1,956,761	\$1,532,632	\$1,464,605	\$1,605,854	\$1,497,107	\$1,393,402
Human Services	\$493,550	\$794,877	\$751,212	\$791,883	\$764,764	\$870,527	\$857,501	\$760,445	\$751,098	\$695,315
Culture & Recreation***	\$1,946,773	\$2,113,339	\$2,168,060	\$2,245,776	\$2,387,441	\$2,481,999	\$2,821,262	\$2,800,788	\$2,837,748	\$2,602,252
Debt Service & Fixed Costs****	\$4,087,134	\$4,347,949	\$4,729,082	\$4,923,079	\$5,205,911	\$6,222,465	\$6,784,173	\$6,692,075	\$6,362,777	\$6,653,139
Intergovernmental	\$861,257	\$1,598,763	\$912,865	\$919,893	\$955,075	\$810,186	\$949,303	\$2,036,114	\$2,442,487	\$2,607,361
Other	\$112,175	\$112,175	\$109,527	\$3,431	\$16,619	\$1,119	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Operating Expenditures	\$ 41,622,593	\$ 43,495,321	\$ 45,162,643	\$ 46,817,176	\$ 49,449,341	\$ 52,425,501	\$ 56,048,206	\$ 58,036,117	\$ 58,809,910	\$ 59,093,601
CPI - U, Base Period = 1982-1984	191.5	196.5	203.9	209.5	216.4	223.1	227.4	235.4	233.5	0
CPI - U, Adjustment for constant dollars (2001 dollars)	100%	97%	94%	91%	88%	86%	84%	81%	82%	0%
Adjusted Net Operating Expenditures	\$ 41,622,593	\$ 42,388,570	\$ 42,416,116	\$ 42,794,698	\$ 43,759,468	\$ 44,999,926	\$ 47,199,786	\$ 47,212,899	\$ 48,231,682	\$ -
Population	33,992	34,417	34,567	34,255	34,047	34,049	35,962	35,565	35,565	35,565
Operating Expenditures per Capita	\$1,224.48	\$1,263.77	\$1,306.52	\$1,366.73	\$1,452.38	\$1,539.71	\$1,558.54	\$1,631.83	\$1,653.59	\$1,661.57
Operating Expenditures per Capita (constant dollars)	\$1,224.48	\$1,231.62	\$1,227.07	\$1,249.30	\$1,285.27	\$1,321.62	\$1,312.49	\$1,327.51	\$1,356.16	\$0.00
Percent Change - Expenditures per Capita	#DIV/0!	0.6%	-0.4%	1.8%	2.9%	2.8%	-0.7%	1.1%	2.2%	-100.0%

Source: Massachusetts Department of Revenue

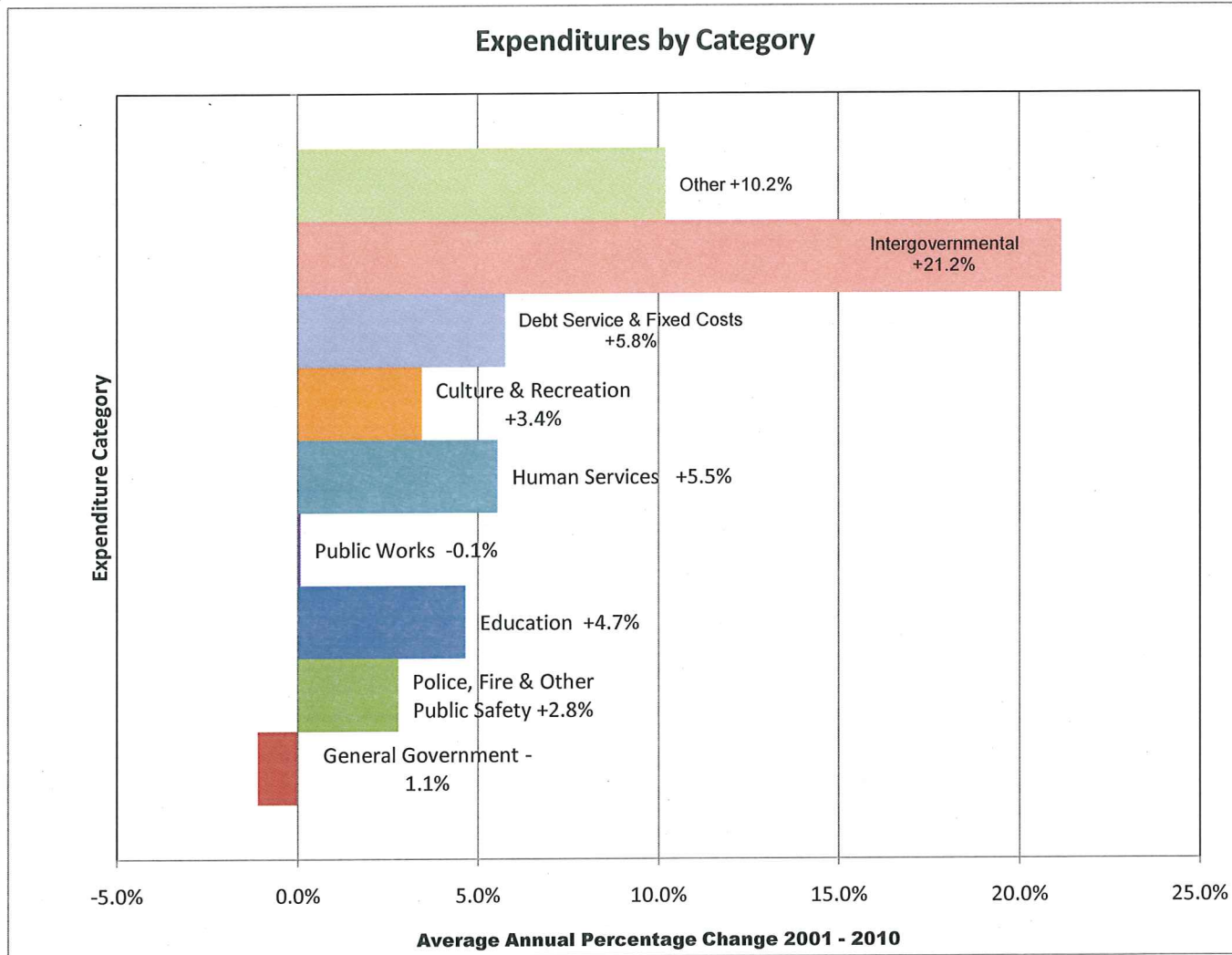
* General Government includes: Select Board, Town Manager, Finance Department, Legal, Facilities Maintenance, Clerks, Planning, and Conservation

** Police, Fire & Other Public Safety includes Inspection Services

*** Culture & Recreation includes Library and Commemorations

**** Debt Service & Fixed Costs includes Workers' Compensation, Unemployment, Health Insurance, Other Employee Benefits, and Retirement

11 - Expenditure Growth By Category - Actual



Amherst Trend	
Favorable	
Marginal	X
Unfavorable	
Uncertain	

Intergovernmental assessments (retired teachers health insurance, School Choice/Charter sending tuition, and PVTAs), Education, Employee Benefits, and Human Services expenditures have increased the most since FY 01. General Government and Public Works spending are below 2001 levels, even before adjusting for inflation.

Purpose: To measure relative growth of expenditures by category.

Formula	Net Operating Expenditures & Transfers										
Fiscal Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Ave Annual
General Government *	\$3,741,827	\$2,924,253	\$3,107,889	\$3,046,937	\$3,008,441	\$3,199,950	\$3,353,542	\$3,284,271	\$3,505,638	\$3,253,561	
Public Safety*	\$6,675,831	\$6,772,589	\$7,105,734	\$7,398,842	\$7,688,560	\$7,945,350	\$8,466,139	\$8,417,276	\$8,852,050	\$8,515,854	
Education	\$22,194,132	\$23,419,423	\$24,708,734	\$25,994,585	\$27,465,769	\$29,361,273	\$31,351,681	\$32,439,294	\$32,561,005	\$33,372,717	
Public Works	\$1,509,914	\$1,411,953	\$1,569,540	\$1,492,750	\$1,956,761	\$1,532,632	\$1,464,605	\$1,605,854	\$1,497,107	\$1,393,402	
Human Services	\$493,550	\$794,877	\$751,212	\$791,883	\$764,764	\$870,527	\$857,501	\$760,445	\$751,098	\$695,315	
Culture & Recreation***	\$1,946,773	\$2,113,339	\$2,168,060	\$2,245,776	\$2,387,441	\$2,481,999	\$2,821,262	\$2,800,788	\$2,837,748	\$2,602,252	
Debt Service & Fixed Costs****	\$4,087,134	\$4,347,949	\$4,729,082	\$4,923,079	\$5,205,911	\$6,222,465	\$6,784,173	\$6,692,075	\$6,362,777	\$6,653,139	
Intergovernmental	\$861,257	\$1,598,763	\$912,865	\$919,893	\$955,075	\$810,186	\$949,303	\$2,036,114	\$2,442,487	\$2,607,361	
Other	\$112,175	\$112,175	\$109,527	\$3,431	\$16,619	\$1,119	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Total Operating Expenditures	\$ 41,622,593	\$ 43,495,321	\$ 45,162,643	\$ 46,817,176	\$ 49,449,341	\$ 52,425,501	\$ 56,048,206	\$ 58,036,117	\$ 58,809,910	\$ 59,093,601	
General Government *	100%	-22%	6%	-2%	-1%	6%	5%	-2%	7%	-7%	-1.1%
Public Safety *	100%	1%	5%	4%	4%	3%	7%	-1%	5%	-4%	2.8%
Education	100%	6%	6%	5%	6%	7%	7%	3%	0%	2%	4.7%
Public Works	100%	-6%	11%	-5%	31%	-22%	-4%	10%	-7%	-7%	0.1%
Human Services	100%	61%	-5%	5%	-3%	14%	-1%	-11%	-1%	-7%	5.5%
Culture & Recreation ***	100%	9%	3%	4%	6%	4%	14%	-1%	1%	-8%	3.4%
Debt Service & Fixed Costs****	100%	6%	9%	4%	6%	20%	9%	-1%	-5%	5%	5.8%
Intergovernmental *****	100%	86%	-43%	1%	4%	-15%	17%	114%	20%	7%	21.2%
Other	100%	0%	-2%	-97%	384%	-93%	-100%	0%	0%	0%	10.2%

Source: Massachusetts Department of Revenue

* General Government includes: Select Board, Town Manager, Finance Department, Legal, Facilities Maintenance, Clerks, Planning, and Conservation

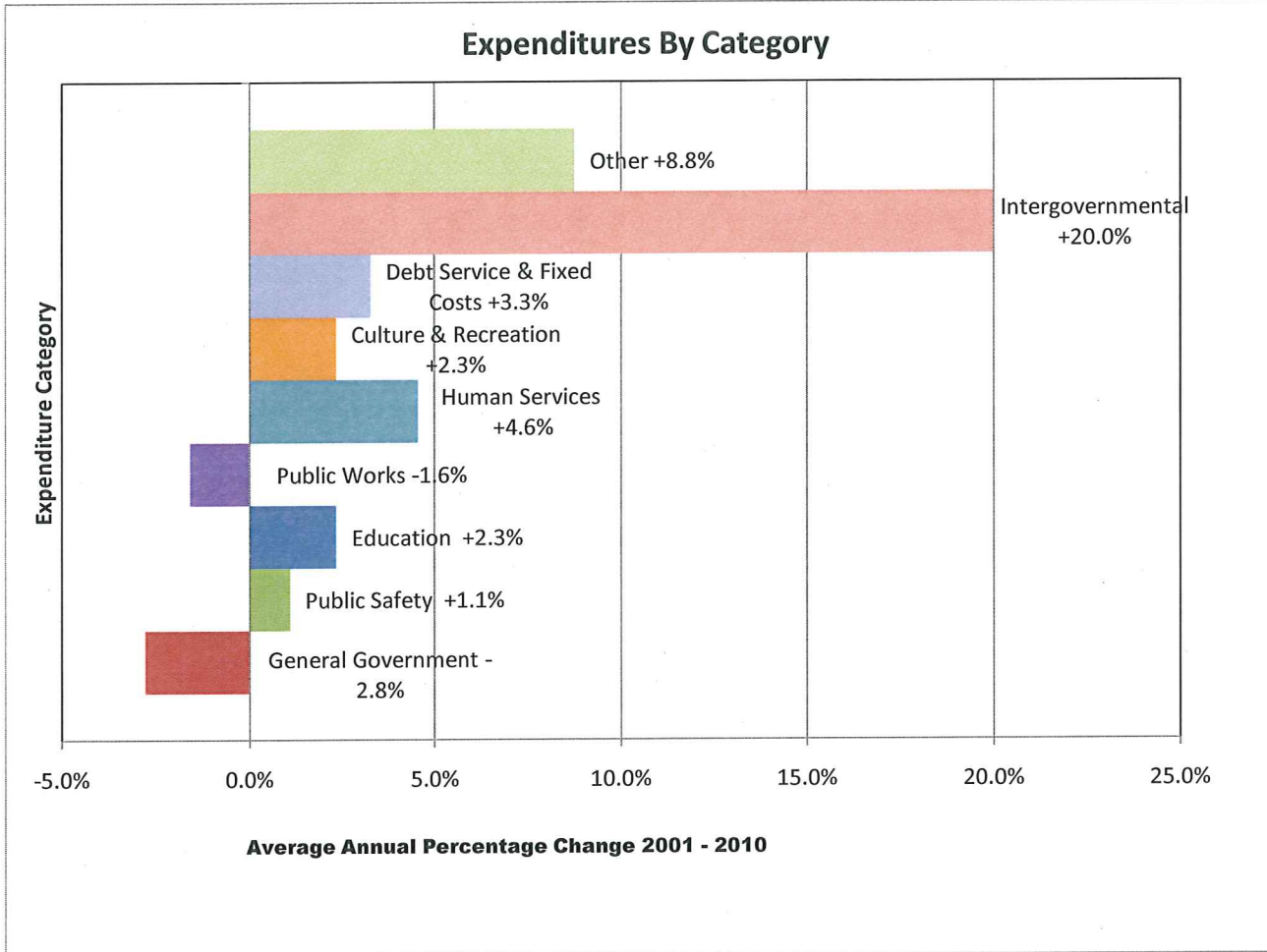
** Police, Fire & Other Public Safety includes Inspection Services

*** Culture & Recreation includes Library and Commemorations

**** Debt Service & Fixed Costs includes Workers' Compensation, Unemployment, Health Insurance, Other Employee Benefits, and Retirement

***** Includes Other for FY 01 - FY 06

12 - Expenditures Growth By Category - Constant Dollars



Amherst Trend	
Favorable	
Marginal	X
Unfavorable	
Uncertain	

Intergovernmental assessments (retired teachers health insurance, School Choice/Charter sending tuition, and PVTAs), Education, Employee Benefits, and Human Services expenditures have increased the most since FY 01. General Government and Public Works spending are below 2001 levels, even before adjusting for inflation.

Purpose: To measure relative growth of expenditures by category.

Formula	Net Operating Expenditures & Transfers (Constant Dollars) / Population										
Fiscal Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Ave Annual
General Government *	\$3,741,827	\$2,924,253	\$3,107,889	\$3,046,937	\$3,008,441	\$3,199,950	\$3,353,542	\$3,284,271	\$3,505,638	\$3,253,561	
Public Safety*	\$6,675,831	\$6,772,589	\$7,105,734	\$7,398,842	\$7,688,560	\$7,945,350	\$8,466,139	\$8,417,276	\$8,852,050	\$8,515,854	
Education	\$22,194,132	\$23,419,423	\$24,708,734	\$25,994,585	\$27,465,769	\$29,361,273	\$31,351,681	\$32,439,294	\$32,561,005	\$33,372,717	
Public Works	\$1,509,914	\$1,411,953	\$1,569,540	\$1,492,750	\$1,956,761	\$1,532,632	\$1,464,605	\$1,605,854	\$1,497,107	\$1,393,402	
Human Services	\$493,550	\$794,877	\$751,212	\$791,883	\$764,764	\$870,527	\$857,501	\$760,445	\$751,098	\$695,315	
Culture & Recreation***	\$1,946,773	\$2,113,339	\$2,168,060	\$2,245,776	\$2,387,441	\$2,481,999	\$2,821,262	\$2,800,788	\$2,837,748	\$2,602,252	
Debt Service & Fixed Costs****	\$4,087,134	\$4,347,949	\$4,729,082	\$4,923,079	\$5,205,911	\$6,222,465	\$6,784,173	\$6,692,075	\$6,362,777	\$6,653,139	
Intergovernmental	\$861,257	\$1,598,763	\$912,865	\$919,893	\$955,075	\$810,186	\$949,303	\$2,036,114	\$2,442,487	\$2,607,361	
Other	\$112,175	\$112,175	\$109,527	\$3,431	\$16,619	\$1,119	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Total Operating Expenditures	\$ 41,622,593	\$ 43,495,321	\$ 45,162,643	\$ 46,817,176	\$ 49,449,341	\$ 52,425,501	\$ 56,048,206	\$ 58,036,117	\$ 58,809,910	\$ 59,093,601	
CPI - uU, Base Period = 1982-1984	191.5	196.5	203.9	209.5	216.4	223.1	227.4	235.4	233.5	0	
CPI - U, Adjustment for constant dollars (2001 dollars)	100%	97%	94%	91%	88%	86%	84%	81%	82%	0%	
Adjusted General Government *	\$3,741,827	\$2,849,845	\$2,918,885	\$2,785,148	\$2,662,276	\$2,746,707	\$2,824,113	\$2,671,784	\$2,875,074	\$0	
Adjusted Police, Fire & Other Public Safety*	\$6,675,831	\$6,600,258	\$6,673,605	\$6,763,142	\$6,803,878	\$6,819,966	\$7,129,576	\$6,847,529	\$7,259,818	\$0	
Adjusted Education	\$22,194,132	\$22,823,509	\$23,206,094	\$23,761,160	\$24,305,429	\$25,202,527	\$26,402,141	\$26,389,655	\$26,704,208	\$0	
Adjusted Public Works	\$1,509,914	\$1,376,025	\$1,474,090	\$1,364,495	\$1,731,607	\$1,315,549	\$1,233,385	\$1,306,377	\$1,227,820	\$0	
Adjusted Human Services	\$493,550	\$774,651	\$705,528	\$723,845	\$676,767	\$747,225	\$722,126	\$618,629	\$615,997	\$0	
Adjusted Culture & Recreation***	\$1,946,773	\$2,059,564	\$2,036,211	\$2,052,821	\$2,112,731	\$2,130,447	\$2,375,865	\$2,278,466	\$2,327,318	\$0	
Adjusted Debt Service & Fixed Costs****	\$4,087,134	\$4,237,314	\$4,441,487	\$4,500,094	\$4,606,894	\$5,341,112	\$5,713,145	\$5,444,063	\$5,218,295	\$0	
Adjusted Intergovernmental	\$861,257	\$1,558,082	\$857,350	\$840,857	\$845,180	\$695,431	\$799,435	\$1,656,397	\$2,003,153	\$0	
Adjusted Other	\$112,175	\$109,321	\$102,866	\$3,136	\$14,707	\$961	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Adjusted Net Operating Expenditures	\$ 41,622,593	\$ 42,388,570	\$ 42,416,116	\$ 42,794,698	\$ 43,759,468	\$ 44,999,926	\$ 47,199,786	\$ 47,212,899	\$ 48,231,682	\$ -	
General Government (constant dollars) *	100%	-24%	2%	-5%	-4%	3%	3%	-5%	8%		-2.8%
Public Safety (constant dollars)*	100%	-1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	5%	-4%	6%		1.1%
Education (constant dollars)	100%	3%	2%	2%	2%	4%	5%	0%	1%		2.3%
Public Works (constant dollars)	100%	-9%	7%	-7%	27%	-24%	-6%	6%	-6%		-1.6%
Human Services (constant dollars)	100%	57%	-9%	3%	-7%	10%	-3%	-14%	0%		4.6%
Culture & Recreation (constant dollars)***	100%	6%	-1%	1%	3%	1%	12%	-4%	2%		2.3%
Debt Service & Fixed Costs****	100%	4%	5%	1%	2%	16%	7%	-5%	-4%		3.3%
Intergovernmental ***** (constant dollars)	100%	81%	-45%	-2%	1%	-18%	15%	107%	21%		20.0%
Other	100%	-3%	-6%	-97%	369%	-93%	-100%	0%	0%		8.8%

Source: Massachusetts Department of Revenue

* General Government includes: Select Board, Town Manager, Finance Department, Legal, Facilities Maintenance, Clerks, Planning, and Conservation

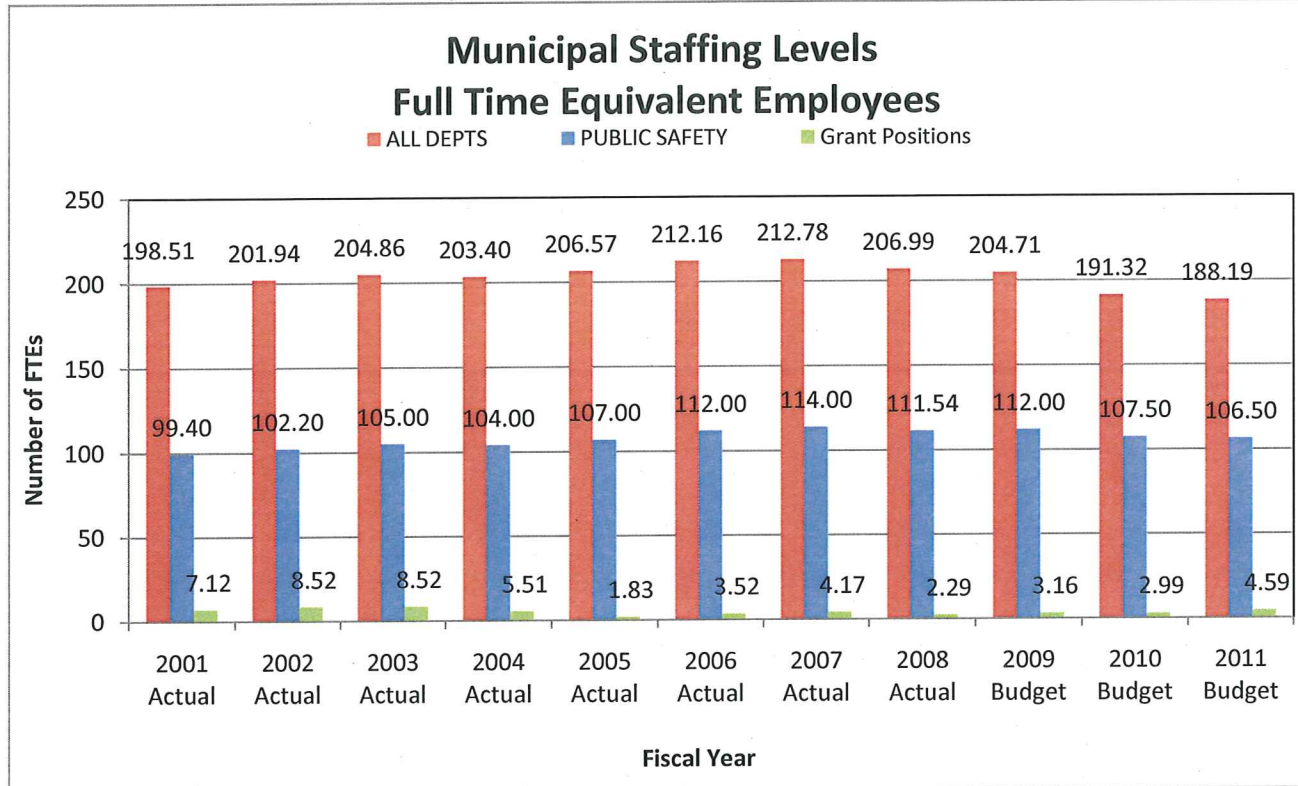
** Police, Fire & Other Public Safety includes Inspection Services

*** Culture & Recreation includes Library and Commemorations

**** Debt Service & Fixed Costs includes Workers' Compensation, Unemployment, Health Insurance, Other Employee Benefits, and Retirement

***** Includes Other for FY 01 - FY 06

13 - Municipal Staffing Levels



Amherst Trend	
Favorable	X
Marginal	
Unfavorable	
Uncertain	

The Town has reduced its workforce by 24.59 positions since FY 07, or 11.6%. Public Safety personnel have decreased by 7.5 FTEs, or 6.6%, while non-public safety positions have been reduced by 17.09 FTEs, or 17.5%. Since FY 01, there has been a net staffing decrease of 10.32 FTEs, or 5.2%.

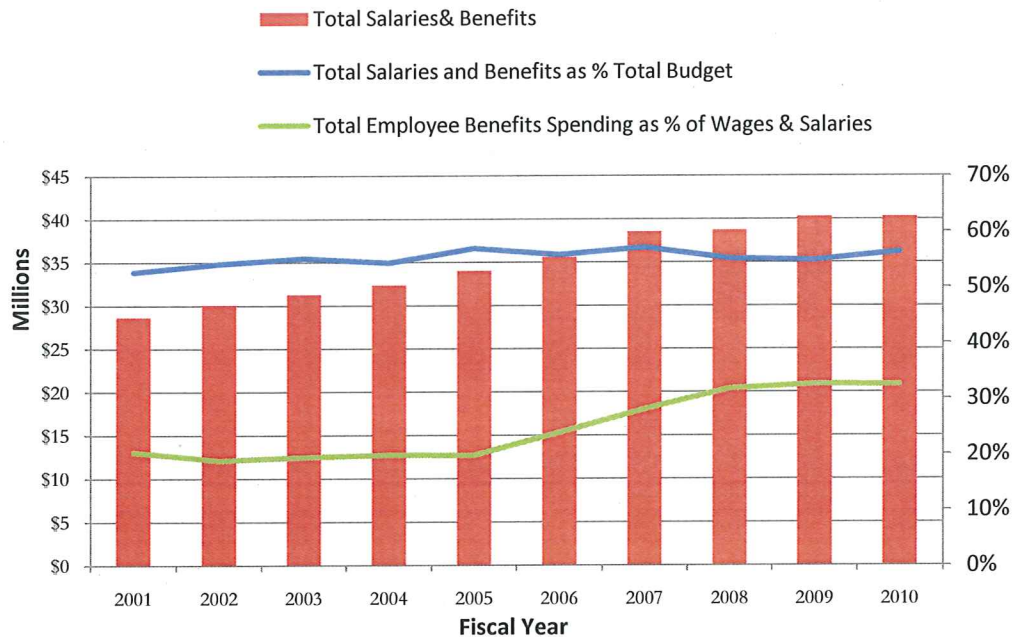
Municipal Staffing Levels - Full Time Equivalent Employees											
Fiscal Year	2001 Actual	2002 Actual	2003 Actual	2004 Actual	2005 Actual	2006 Actual	2007 Actual	2008 Actual	2009 Budget	2010 Budget	2011 Budget
Public Safety	99.40	102.20	105.00	104.00	107.00	112.00	114.00	111.54	112.00	107.50	106.50
All Other Depts.	99.11	99.74	99.86	99.40	99.57	100.16	98.78	95.45	92.71	83.82	81.69
Total Municipal	198.51	201.94	204.86	203.40	206.57	212.16	212.78	206.99	204.71	191.32	188.19
Grant Positions	7.12	8.52	8.52	5.51	1.83	3.52	4.17	2.29	3.16	2.99	4.59

Source: Amherst Finance Department. Includes municipal General Fund employees only.

14 - Salaries & Benefits as Percentage Total Operating Budget

Increasing benefit costs as a percentage of wages and salaries is considered a warning indicator.

Salaries & Benefits as Percentage Total Budget



Amherst Trend

Favorable	
Marginal	
Unfavorable	X
Uncertain	

Total salaries and benefits as a percentage of total budget has continued to increase, a warning sign. Total benefit costs as a percentage of wages and salaries has increased from 20.3% to 32.4% of wages and salaries over the past ten years. The rapid increase is primarily the result of increased costs of providing health benefits to municipal employees. The long term trend is unfavorable, despite some success in the past three years to control the rate of increase of health insurance costs.

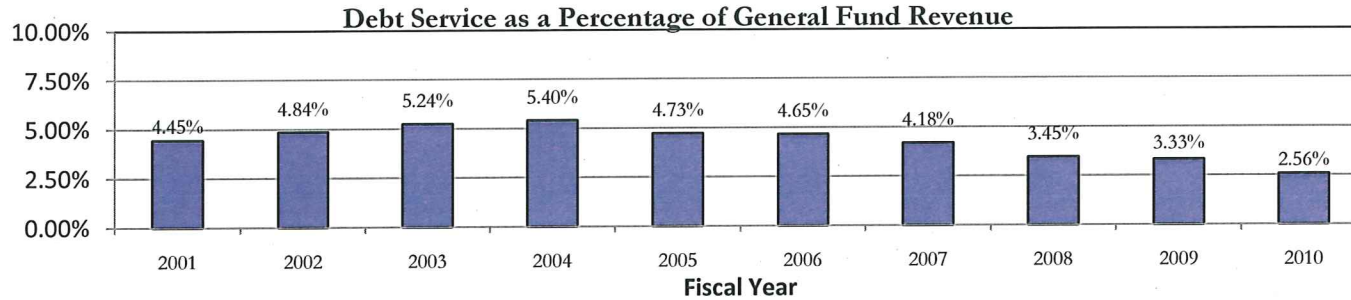
Formula	Total Salaries and Benefits as Percentage of Total Budget									
Fiscal Year*	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Employee Benefits	\$ 4,838,727	\$ 4,774,864	\$ 5,092,744	\$ 5,346,859	\$ 5,618,473	\$ 6,852,835	\$ 8,433,363	\$ 9,311,618	\$ 9,885,867	\$ 9,859,369
Total Health Benefits	\$ 2,482,451	\$ 2,462,000	\$ 2,674,480	\$ 2,843,533	\$ 2,999,107	\$ 3,814,293	\$ 4,929,533	\$ 5,626,896	\$ 5,903,572	\$ 5,765,288
Total Retirement Benefits	\$ 2,356,276	\$ 2,312,864	\$ 2,418,264	\$ 2,503,327	\$ 2,619,366	\$ 3,038,543	\$ 3,503,829	\$ 3,684,722	\$ 3,982,295	\$ 4,094,081
Salaries - Municipal	\$ 11,195,042	\$ 11,958,884	\$ 12,527,404	\$ 12,824,236	\$ 13,710,446	\$ 13,493,848	\$ 14,725,902	\$ 14,084,827	\$ 14,583,312	\$ 15,028,222
Salaries - Library	\$ 1,027,902	\$ 950,293	\$ 1,027,902	\$ 1,173,652	\$ 1,148,371	\$ 1,202,034	\$ 1,257,668	\$ 1,186,994	\$ 1,335,765	\$ 1,215,548
Salaries - Elementary School	\$ 11,592,798	\$ 12,414,390	\$ 12,629,086	\$ 13,001,490	\$ 13,558,962	\$ 14,066,022	\$ 14,115,839	\$ 14,109,728	\$ 14,465,617	\$ 14,152,842
Total Salaries	\$ 23,815,742	\$ 25,323,567	\$ 26,184,392	\$ 26,999,378	\$ 28,417,779	\$ 28,761,904	\$ 30,099,409	\$ 29,381,549	\$ 30,384,694	\$ 30,396,612
Total Salaries & Benefits	\$ 28,654,469	\$ 30,098,431	\$ 31,277,136	\$ 32,346,237	\$ 34,036,252	\$ 35,614,739	\$ 38,532,772	\$ 38,693,166	\$ 40,270,561	\$ 40,255,981
Total Employee Benefits Spending as % of Wages & Salaries	20.32%	18.86%	19.45%	19.80%	19.77%	23.83%	28.02%	31.69%	32.54%	32.44%
Total Operating Budget	\$ 54,350,905	\$ 55,508,140	\$ 56,672,545	\$ 59,485,598	\$ 59,718,855	\$ 63,824,133	\$ 67,403,878	\$ 70,166,213	\$ 73,422,737	\$ 71,427,931
Total Salaries and Benefits as % Total Budget	52.72%	54.22%	55.19%	54.38%	56.99%	55.80%	57.17%	55.15%	54.85%	56.36%

*All data is "budgeted", with the exception of 2001, which is "actual"

Source: Finance Department and School Business Office

15 - Debt Service

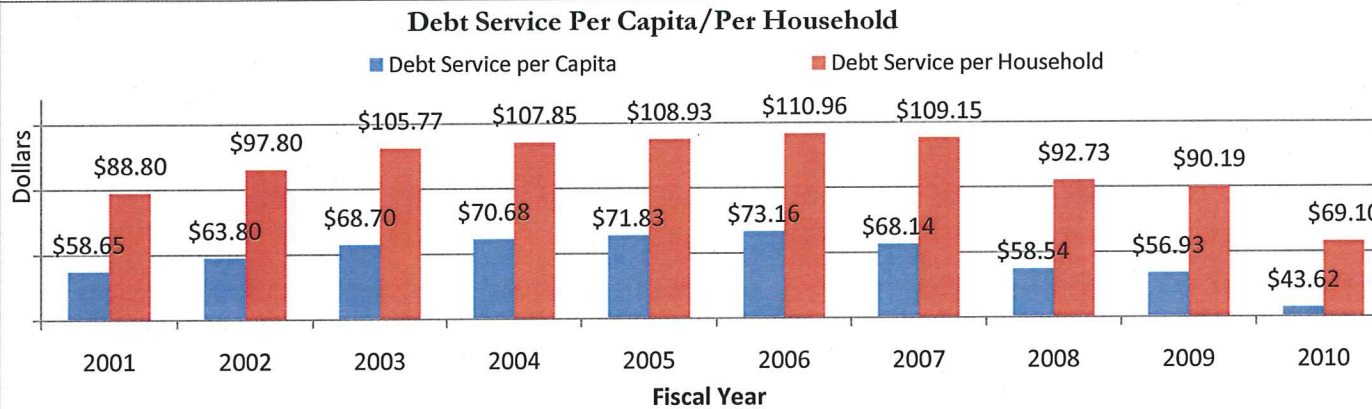
Debt Service exceeding 20 percent of operating revenues is considered a warning indicator by the credit rating organizations.



Amherst Trend	
Favorable	X
Marginal	
Unfavorable	
Uncertain	

Amherst maintains a strong credit rating of "AA With A Stable Outlook" from Standard & Poor's due in part to a low percentage of debt relative to general fund revenue.

Over the past six years, debt service as a percentage of general fund revenue has remained relatively low and has actually declined. This gives the Town additional flexibility to issue new debt.

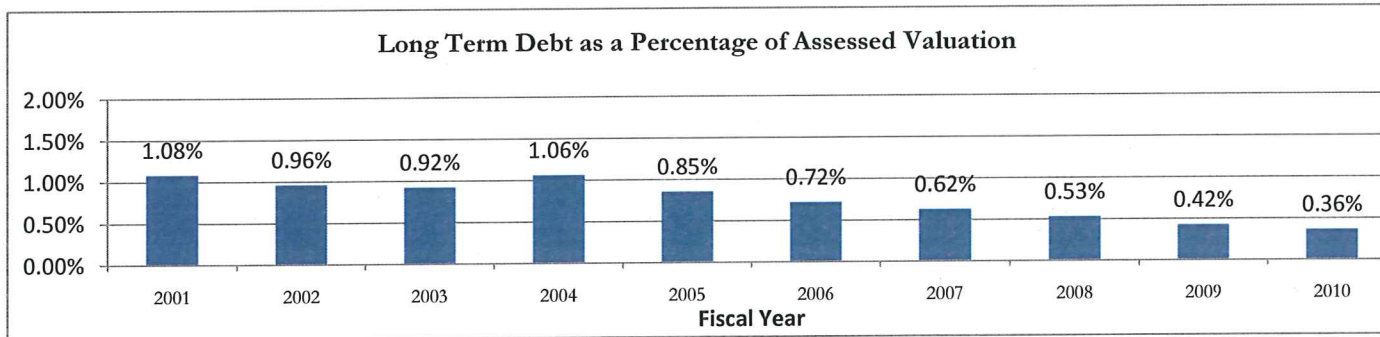


Formula	Debt Service / General Fund Revenue OR / per Capita/Household									
Fiscal Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Long Term Retired	\$1,215,000	\$1,391,999	\$1,573,269	\$1,621,270	\$1,773,730	\$1,830,270	\$1,895,270	\$1,645,270	\$1,640,271	\$1,286,614
Long Term Interest	\$740,550	\$688,177	\$526,195	\$586,510	\$614,760	\$536,923	\$496,422	\$421,669	\$362,917	\$263,495
Short Term Interest	\$38,160	\$113,333	\$275,227	\$213,528	\$57,095	\$123,862	\$58,743	\$14,898	\$21,559	\$1,309
Other Interest	\$0	\$2,145	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Debt Service	\$ 1,993,710	\$ 2,195,654	\$ 2,374,691	\$ 2,421,308	\$ 2,445,585	\$ 2,491,055	\$ 2,450,435	\$ 2,081,837	\$ 2,024,747	\$ 1,551,418
General Fund Revenue	\$ 44,829,655	\$ 45,333,037	\$ 45,297,342	\$ 44,864,247	\$ 51,730,529	\$ 53,574,369	\$ 58,555,235	\$ 60,370,325	\$ 60,893,556	\$ 60,505,355
Population	33,992	34,417	34,567	34,255	34,047	34,049	35,962	35,565	35,565	35,565
Households *	22,451	22,451	22,451	22,451	22,451	22,451	22,451	22,451	22,451	22,451
Debt Service as a % of General Fund Revenue	4.45%	4.84%	5.24%	5.40%	4.73%	4.65%	4.18%	3.45%	3.33%	2.56%
Debt Service per Capita	\$58.65	\$63.80	\$68.70	\$70.68	\$71.83	\$73.16	\$68.14	\$58.54	\$56.93	\$43.62
Debt Service per Household	\$88.80	\$97.80	\$105.77	\$107.85	\$108.93	\$110.96	\$109.15	\$92.73	\$90.19	\$69.10

Sources: Debt and Population: Amherst Finance Department. Households: US Census Factfinder (2000)

16 - Long Term Debt

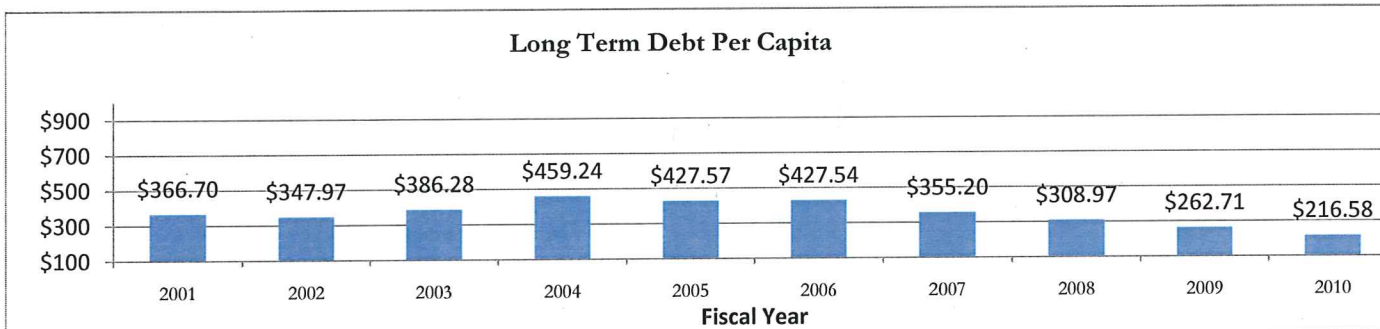
Overall debt exceeding 10 percent of assessed valuation is considered a warning indicator by bond rating agencies.



Amherst Trend	
Favorable	X
Marginal	
Unfavorable	
Uncertain	

Like debt service, rating agencies look at long term debt as a percentage of assessed valuations and per capita.

Overall, Amherst's long term debt has remained relatively low and has actually decreased in recent years.



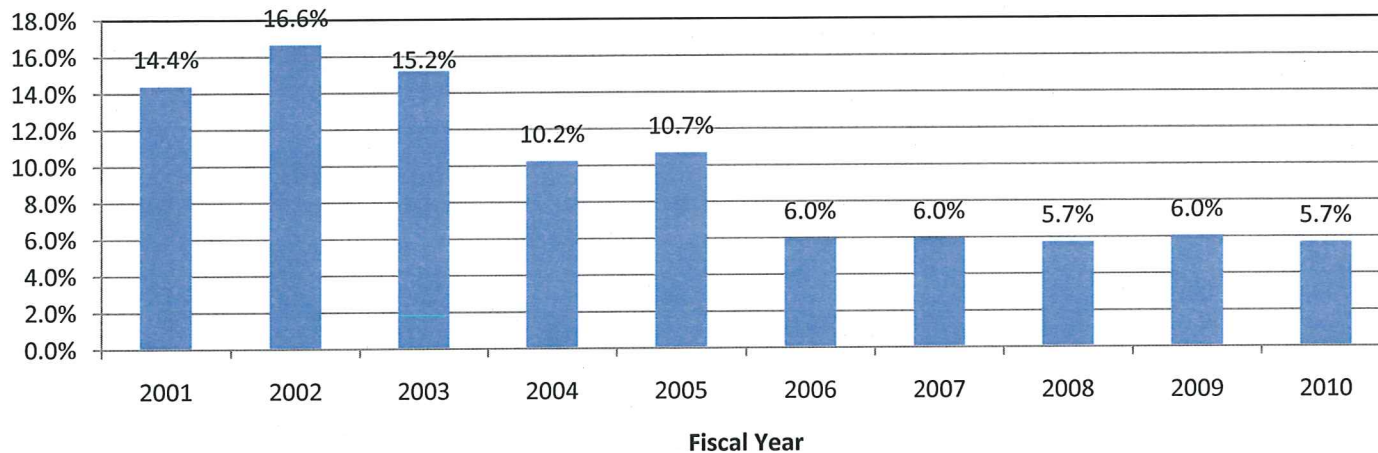
Formula	Outstanding Debt as a Percentage of Assessed Valuations or Per Capita									
Fiscal Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Outstanding Debt	\$12,465,000	\$11,976,000	\$13,352,465	\$15,731,195	\$14,557,465	\$14,557,465	\$12,773,655	\$10,988,385	\$9,343,115	\$7,702,844
Total Assessed Valuations	\$1,151,342,500	\$1,250,511,300	\$1,448,569,000	\$1,485,946,000	\$1,713,756,900	\$2,027,621,762	\$2,045,921,630	\$2,084,591,660	\$2,204,262,100	\$2,127,375,010
Population	33,992	34,417	34,567	34,255	34,047	34,049	35,962	35,565	35,565	35,565
Long Term Debt as a % of Assessed Valuations	1.08%	0.96%	0.92%	1.06%	0.85%	0.72%	0.62%	0.53%	0.42%	0.36%
Long Term Debt per Capita	\$366.70	\$347.97	\$386.28	\$459.24	\$427.57	\$427.54	\$355.20	\$308.97	\$262.71	\$216.58

Sources: Amherst Finance Department, Massachusetts Department of Revenue

17 - Reserves & Fund Balance

Declining reserves as a percentage of operating revenues may be considered a warning indicator--between 5% and 15% is optimal and is recommended by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA).

Reserves as a Percentage of Total Budget



Amherst Trend

Favorable	
Marginal	X
Unfavorable	
Uncertain	

Free cash and a stabilization fund permit greater financial flexibility and provide the Town with a safety net.

Between 2002 and 2006, Amherst's reserves as a percentage of operating revenue declined substantially, but have stabilized since then.

Formula	Undesignated Fund Balance / Operating Revenue									
Fiscal Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Certified Free Cash	\$3,829,322	\$4,660,432	\$4,136,081	\$1,662,285	\$1,849,054	\$1,240,133	\$2,216,935	\$3,154,033	\$3,528,863	\$2,672,333
Stabilization Fund	\$3,993,359	\$4,577,354	\$4,467,135	\$4,429,916	\$4,526,873	\$2,579,647	\$1,801,720	\$863,153	\$894,542	\$1,380,604
Total Reserves (Free Cash & Stabilization)	\$7,822,681	\$9,237,786	\$8,603,216	\$6,092,201	\$6,375,927	\$3,819,780	\$4,018,655	\$4,017,186	\$4,423,405	\$4,052,937
Total Budget	\$54,350,905	\$55,508,140	\$56,672,545	\$59,485,598	\$59,718,855	\$63,824,133	\$67,403,878	\$70,166,213	\$73,422,737	\$71,427,931
Free Cash as a % of Total Budget	7.0%	8.4%	7.3%	2.8%	3.1%	1.9%	3.3%	4.5%	4.8%	3.7%
Stabilization Fund as a % Total Budget	7.3%	8.2%	7.9%	7.4%	7.6%	4.0%	2.7%	1.2%	1.2%	1.9%
Reserves as a % of Total Budget	14.4%	16.6%	15.2%	10.2%	10.7%	6.0%	6.0%	5.7%	6.0%	5.7%

Footnote: As of July 1 of the fiscal year shown.

Source: Massgov - Municipal Databank